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To: Members of the Minnesota House and Senate

Education Minnesota is the professional voice of 86,000 professional educators and students. We're proud to support the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (HF 1071/SF 667), which is critical for the safety and well-being of Indigenous children and families across Minnesota.

I was very concerned to hear that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is set to be overturned by a conservative Supreme Court. Minnesota has the chance to right this wrong by preserving the ability for an Indigenous child to be cared for by an Indigenous family. Anything else would not be in the best interest of that child, and would exacerbate cultural erasure.

Our Indigenous students often face uphill battles to learning and living because of systemic racism, generational trauma and erasure. We need to do all we can to heal unacceptable disparities in our state. We know that students are able to achieve more when they're supported at home, and without this bill our students would struggle to learn about themselves, much less be able to thrive at school. The eleven sovereign Tribal nations in our state, and Indigenous neighbors in all of our communities, deserve to see this support from the Legislature.

Education Minnesota is honored to join the coalition supporting the work of incredible leaders, Rep. Heather Keeler and Sen. Mary Kunesh, in fighting for sovereignty.

Together,



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*Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO.*



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EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**